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of the year twelve numbers had been issued and the membership had begun to increase. At that time, if my memory is correct, there were less than 500 members, many of whom were in arrears for dues. During my editorship, which continued for nine years, Dr. McMurtrie was a very active member of the council and in 1900 became president. He was ready to sacrifice his time and means in the service of the society and expected the rest of us to do as much. The salary list during these years was ridiculously small, yet a tremendous amount of work was accomplished.

Dr. McMurtrie was a man of fine presence, agreeable manners and great kindness of heart. He died May 24, 1913.

EDWARD HART

PUBLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

THE Secretary of Agriculture has announced new plans of publication work for that department. There has been an independent series of bulletins and circulars in each of the thirteen publishing bureaus, divisions and offices of the department. These have been discontinued and will be superseded by the *Journal of Research* for printing scientific and technical matter, and by a departmental series of bulletins, written in popular language for selected and general distribution. By this plan the confusion that has resulted from the multiplicity of series of publications will be avoided, and the saving of a considerable sum will annually be effected.

Under the new plan the department will discontinue the general distribution of matter so scientific or technical as to be of little or no use to the lay reader. It will supply technical information only to those directly interested and capable of using scientific analyses, and of understanding the results of research work couched in scientific terms. A larger amount of information in popular form which the average reader can immediately apply to his own direct advantage, and thereby increase the agricultural productiveness and the health of the nation, will hereafter be distributed.

The highly scientific matter heretofore pub-

lished indiscriminately in bulletins and circulars will hereafter be published only in the newly established *Journal of Research*, which will be issued about once a month. It will be royal octavo, of the scientific magazine type, from 75 to 100 pages, 12 numbers to constitute a volume. Such of the matter in the *Journal* as seems to merit additional circulation may be issued in the form of reprints or separates. The *Journal*, for the present at least, will be limited to the publication of the results of research made by the various bureaus, divisions and offices, but it may be extended to include the scientific research work of the state agricultural experiment stations, in which event two editors representing these stations will be added to the editorial committee. Extensive scientific articles, embodying a complete report of research investigations, will be considered as monographs, and may be published as supplements to the *Journal*.

Permission will be given to specialists to publish technical reports or even monographs in journals of scientific societies or technical magazines specializing in highly restricted fields of scientific endeavor.

The *Journal* will be distributed free to agricultural colleges, technical schools, experiment stations, libraries of large universities and certain government depositories and institutions making suitable exchanges; also to a restricted list of scientific men. Copies of the *Journal* will be sold to miscellaneous applicants by the superintendent of documents, Government Printing Office, and possibly an annual subscription price will be affixed, as is done with the *Experiment Station Record*.

The *Monthly Crop Reporter* will no longer be published. The crop statistics will be collected as heretofore, and telegraphic and news summaries of these statistics will continue to be issued to the press. The printed *Crop Reporter* was discontinued because it did not bring the information into the hands of the recipients until from 10 to 17 days after the really important news had been circulated by telegraph and printed in the daily press throughout the United States and Europe, the statistical information, therefore, reaching the

actual crop correspondent and through him the local producer too late to be of practical service.

As a partial substitute for the printed *Crop Reporter*, a *Weekly News Letter* to crop correspondents will be issued in typewritten facsimile form. This can be prepared and put into the mails sooner than was possible with the printed *Reporter*. It is believed that the weekly news will be far more timely than notices issued heretofore only once a month. Its circulation will be limited to official crop correspondents. The *News Letter* will contain summaries of more important discoveries and recommendations of the various bureaus, divisions and offices.

The *Experiment Station Record*, the *Weather Review* and *North American Fauna* will continue to be issued with certain modifications. The *Yearbook* will be restricted to articles of the magazine type, which, it is believed, will add greatly to the popularity and value of the volume, of which 500,000 copies are printed and distributed annually.

In the department series of bulletins all the publications of the various bureaus, divisions and offices will be printed. These bulletins may be any size from 4 to 60 pages, and will be semi-technical or scientific, or popular in character. They will capitalize for popular use the discoveries of laboratories and scientific specialists.

The series of farmers' bulletins will be continued. The object of these bulletins is to tell the people how to do important things. The bulletins will contain practical, concise and specific and constructional statements with regard to matters relating to farming, stock raising, fruit growing, etc. Under the new plan the bulletins will be reduced in size to from 16 to 20 pages, and will deal particularly with conditions in restricted sections, rather than attempt, as heretofore, to cover the entire country. Much of the information calling for immediate circulation will be issued hereafter in the form of statements to the press instead of being held back as heretofore for weeks until a bulletin could be printed and issued. The publication of bulletins deal-

ing with foreign crop statistics will be discontinued. Material of this character when deemed important will be furnished to the press for the information of the public.

Consideration is being given to the discontinuance of certain annual reports of bureaus now required by law to be printed, with the belief that much of the matter therein contained is unnecessary, while certain portions could be more advantageously and more promptly printed as bulletins of the department. All executive reports of chiefs are to be reduced with the object of confining them to strictly business reports.

The new plan of publication work has been designed primarily to improve the character of the department's publications, and secondarily to prevent waste in distribution, and through the economies effected, a greater output of information will become possible with the available appropriation. Certain changes will be made in the existing form of the publications, designed with a view to improving their appearance, reducing their size and adapting them to wider distribution.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

CHARLES F. MARVIN, professor of meteorology in the U. S. Weather Bureau since 1891, chief of the instrument division, has been appointed chief of the Weather Bureau, to succeed Mr. Willis L. Moore.

THE council of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, has elected the following honorary fellows: Dr. Harvey Cushing, professor of clinical surgery at Harvard University; Dr. W. J. Mayo, surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minn., and Dr. George Crile, professor of surgery at Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

THE trustees of the Beit memorial fellowships, on the advice of the advisory board, have decided to assist further research as to the nature of the virus of sand-fly fever, a disease which is the cause of much sickness in the ships of the Mediterranean Squadron and among the troops stationed at Malta and in certain parts of India and elsewhere. The